

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR JULY 21
PRAYING TO GOD.

LIBERSON TEXT—Psalm 145:19, 20; Luke 11:13.
GOLDEN TEXT—Let us therefore come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.—Hebrews 4:16.
DEVOTIONAL READING—Luke 11:13.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Psalm 145:19; Matthew 7:7-11; 11 Corinthians 12:5-9; James 4:3-5.
PRIMARY MEMORY VERSE—Jehovah is high unto all them that call upon him.—Psalm 145:19.
STORY MATERIAL—Matthew 14:23-25; Acts 16:12.
INTERMEDIATE, SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—Why and how to pray and the results.

Prayer ought to be a matter of great concern to every believer, for the Lord is high unto all them that truly call upon him; he will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he will hear their cry and will save them (Psalm 145:18). Prayer is a matter but little understood by Christians. In fact, only as divine aid is given can we really pray. The range of prayer is from the depths of the soul to the very thoughts of God. There was something about the praying of Jesus that so impressed the disciples that they requested him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). We nowhere read of them asking him to teach them how to preach. Praying is more important than preaching. No one is fit to teach or preach who does not know how to pray. May each one earnestly at once in the school of prayer with Christ as our teacher. He is a most willing and capable teacher. In response to the disciples' request he outlines the following principles of prayer:

I. The Right Relationship of the One Praying (Luke 11:2).

This relationship is set forth in the words "Our Father."

1. Filial—"Father."

In order to pray to God, the supplicant must be a child of God. God is a father; his gifts and blessings are for his children. This relationship can only be entered into through regeneration. No all men have a right to say, "Our Father" when addressing God. Only those who are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ can so address him. It is not only professing to be children but living like God's children. Those who have God's nature will express that fact in their manner of living. Children have rights and privileges which are denied to others. Representatives of the highest courts of earth must abide the time of formal entrance into the presence of the president of the United States, while his children can come freely in an informal way into his presence.

2. Fraternal—"Our Father."

God has more than one child. His children are bound up together in nature and interests. Even in our secret prayer we should address him as Our Father, which is a recognition of the interests of others, alongside of ours.

II. The Right Attitude in Prayer (Luke 11:2).

1. Reverent adoration.

As children we have certain privileges, and yet holy reverence becomes us. We should hallow his name; we should adore him as the eternal God.

2. Loyalty.

When praying to God we should come with the spirit of loyalty which cries out "Thy kingdom come." We should not only receive him as the Lord of our lives, but should dedicate our lives to the bringing in of the rule of God in the earth.

3. Submission—"Thy will be done."

We should have no will of our own regarding the rule of God. We should let him direct us in all things.

III. The Right Spirit (Luke 11:2-8).

1. Dependence—"Give us our daily bread" (v. 3).

We should realize that not only what we have, but life itself is ours to enjoy because of him, and that he is able to do for us exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

2. Penitence and Love—"Forgive us our debts" (v. 6).

We should come to him realizing that we have sinned, and cry unto him for forgiveness. Our hearts should be so filled with love for others that we will forgive those who sinned against us as God is willing to forgive us.

3. Holiness and Caution—"Lead us not into temptation" (v. 4).

Because we are God's children and realizing the depravity of our natures, and the consequent tendency to practice that which displeases him, we should shrink from that which, if indulged in, would dishonor him, and earnestly cry unto him to lead us not into the place where we would likely fall.

4. Intercession (vv. 5, 8).

The man who asked for a friend did not ask for himself, but for a friend. Prayer which pleases God is unselfish in its requests. It takes in the needs of all those in need, rather than those of the one praying. Doubtless he would have gone hungry if he had not been himself without asking for bread, but was willing to inconvenience his friend for the sake of another friend.

5. Perseverance (vv. 7, 8).

Though his friend refused at first and offered excuse, because he would not take no for an answer, he arose from his bed and gave him as many as he needed. Prayer which pleases God and gets results is importunate, perseveres until the object is achieved.

IV. Encouragement to Pray (Luke 11:9-13).

1. God's promise (vv. 9, 10).

True prayer cannot fail of an answer, because God definitely promises that every one that asketh receiveth, he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

2. The example of an earthly father (vv. 11-13).

No father will give a stone to his son who asketh for bread, or a serpent instead of a fish, nor a scorpion instead of an egg. God is infinitely more willing to answer the prayers of his children than earthly parents are to give good gifts to their children.

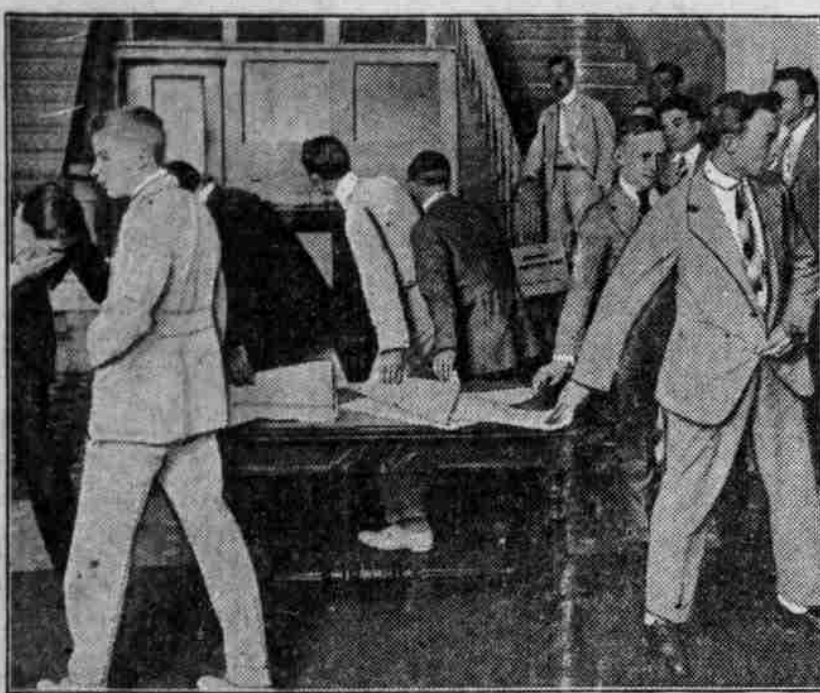
V. The True Goal of All Prayer (Luke 11:13).

God's gift is himself in the person of his Holy Spirit. All those who practice the principles which Jesus taught in this model prayer shall be blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's best gift to man.

Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

SECRECY GUARDS CROP REPORTS



Press Representatives Awaiting Signal for Release of Crop Report.

ACCURACY IS AIM IN CROP REPORTS

Department of Agriculture Gathers Information on American Food Production.

STRICT SECRECY MAINTAINED

Forecasts Reflect Efforts of Farmers for Maximum Yields and Have Immediate and Marked Effect on Various Markets.

Dependence of a large part of the world upon American farm production has focused public attention upon the crop reports of the United States department of agriculture—reports which the United States government sponsors and protects from illegal use to the ultimate degree.

Just now the crop reports are reflecting the efforts of American farmers for maximum production. When small crops are reported the news serves to prepare the country and enable necessary adjustments.

The crop reports, too, have an immediate and marked effect upon the markets. Their great importance in this field has made necessary thorough safeguards against premature publication and unauthorized use. Every venture through which information might be filtered from the locked rooms where the reports are finally prepared is closed and remains closed until the second, when, as shown in the picture, the signal for release is given.

On "crop reporting day" at an hour set months in advance, newspaper and press association representatives gather in the main building of the department of agriculture. Each has near at hand a telephone already connected with his office and at the other end of the line is a man equipped with a blank crop reporting form. Shortly before the moment set copies of the completed crop reports are placed on a table, face down, and each newspaper gets his hand on one. At the signal, given by a high official of the department, the newspaper men get to their telephones and in a few minutes more the coveted information is being read in every large market in the United States and the next day, at the latest, is available in every community of the United States and in the larger markets of foreign countries.

Big Organization Works.
The "release" of the crop reports follows work in which tens of thousands of persons all over the country have participated.

Distributed over the country are 42 salaried field agents, one in each state or group of small states. The bureau also employs ten crop specialists, one each for cotton, rice and tobacco, who travel through the regions in which their special crops are grown. In addition there are approximately 175,000 voluntary crop reporters, including county and township reporters and producers, buyers and handlers of grain and live stock.

Tabulation of Crop Information.
The returns from each class of reporters are tabulated and averaged separately as a check against the others.

To prevent a total for any of the so-called speculative crops, such as corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye and cotton, from becoming known to any person prior to the time fixed in advance, even the tabulators and computers who make up the totals do not know the states to which they pertain. The final telegraphic reports and comments of the field agents relating to the speculative crops are kept locked in the office of the secretary of agriculture until crop reporting day, when they

are turned over to the crop reporting board and the entire board is immediately locked in until the minute that the report is issued, guards being stationed at the doors and all telephone lines disconnected.

Each member of the crop reporting board prepares his own individual and independent estimate for each crop and state. These are compared, discrepancies are discussed and explained and a final figure is adopted by the board.

Data Complete.
The crop reporting board has before it more complete, detailed and accurate data than any other crop estimating agency in the world. Members of the board and all other department employees concerned with crop estimates are prohibited by law under severe penalties from speculating in any product "of the soil," from giving out advance information and from knowingly compiling or issuing false statistics.

Accuracy of Crop Reports.
Wherever it has been possible to secure an absolute check the crop reports of the department of agriculture have usually been found to be surprisingly accurate.

Wheat will be added to the few crops for which an additional check will be made available through the new requirements by which all threshermen must report to the bureau of markets of the department the quantity of wheat threshed and the acreage from which it was produced.

No Open House for Rats.
Do not keep "open house" for rats by leaving basement doors ajar for ventilation without proper safeguards. The management of a large department store in an eastern city recently had a very expensive lesson in this regard. Rats had been doing damage to the extent of nearly \$10,000 a month, but by persistent trapping were finally exterminated. The building was then made "rat-proof." But after a time rats were again at their work of destruction.

Puzzled to know how the pests had gained entrance, the management learned that in summer the night watchman was accustomed to leave a basement door open for ventilation. Naturally the rats entered and another campaign of extermination had to be waged. This expense could easily have been prevented, says the bureau of biological survey of the department of agriculture, if a piece of sheet iron three feet high had been placed across the doorway and the sides of the doorway sheeted with metal or otherwise made smooth so that rats could not gain a foothold. Rats cannot climb over such barriers, as they do over mesh or crossed wires.

Packing Fruit for Market.
Good, Clean and Attractive Packages Count for More Than Inexpensive Man Realizes.

The commercial grower knows that good clean packages and honest attractive packs count a great deal—more than the inexperienced man realizes. Fruit coming from the Pacific coast, where good packages and professional packers are appreciated, finds a ready sale and good prices. Eastern growers have learned many a lesson in fruit packing from their Western brothers. The Western product outsells that produced in the Central and Eastern states because of the very attractive pack of the former. While the quality of certain classes of the Pacific grown fruit is no better than Eastern grown stock, yet it is so carefully sorted and packed that it at once catches the eye of the fruit purchasers and adds at least 25 per cent to the selling value of Western grown fruit.

Don't have an empty tool box.
Clover makes an excellent hay when properly cured and stored. But its value depends on its palatability and nutritive value.

Modern equipment is an essential where any amount of hay is grown on a farm.

Alfalfa hay is easily injured by rain; for this reason haste is imperative in securing the crop.

The harrows will save hoeing in the corn.

Keep the plant aphids in check by using some tobacco preparation. Those insects that eat the foliage must be kept in check by spraying with a poison that they will eat, like paris green or arsenate of lead.

When alfalfa is left too long, the leaves which are the most valuable part of the plant, fall off and the stems become woody, and the yield of the next crop is greatly reduced.

Don't neglect to cultivate the garden.

The early fruit and vegetables on the market get the high prices.

Clover should be cut as soon as the first blossoms begin to turn brown.

The one thing that makes clover hay valuable as a feed is the curing process.

Keep the onion field thoroughly cultivated and weeded if you want a good crop of onions.

An acre of fairly good corn, yielding at the rate of 50 bushels, will make ten tons of good silage.

Pick strawberries carefully, grade well and pack neatly, and you will get top prices for your fruit.

HAVE THEIR OWN TROUBLES

By No Means an Easy Task for Stokers to Hit the Furnace Door When Ship Rolls.

It was while I was being initiated into the technique of stoking by shoveling coal under the boilers that a change of course brought the swinging seas dead ahead, and set the ship rolling even more drunkenly than before, writes Lewis R. Freeman in Popular Mechanics Magazine. After failing to hit the "dark spots" and "hollows" two or three times as I staggered to the roll, and once even missing the furnace door itself, one of the stokers, taking compassion, relieved me of the scoop and put the trouble right with a half-dozen quickly tossed shovelfuls. I was frankly glad to work over to where I could take a "half-nelson" round a bar by the starboard bunker.

A heavy slam-banging from the opposite end of the boiler room indicated that things were not going quite so smoothly there, and edging cautiously along, I was presently able to get some hint of the cause from the words of a roilingly cursing stoker who leaped out to tell me that the "blinker" skip "as took charge." Rubbing a bruised shin and glowering balefully from a blackened eye which appeared to have been bumped against a boiler, he explained, in language more forceful than elegant, that some impractical theorist had encouraged them to experiment with wheels on the side of the skip, with the idea of making it easier to push about over the cool-cluttered deck. In the picturesque language of the sea, it had "taken charge," and so effectively that one swift, straight rush to starboard, followed by a "soogly" progress back to port, put every man who, either by chance or intent, hurried its way, more or less down the comb.

Straight down the one-in-three incline from the port to the starboard bunkers lolloped the juggernaut, dashing the protesting anatomies of the stokers to leeward as it went. Spitting blood and oaths indiscriminately, one man clung to it all the way, however, and he also it was who—taking advantage of the tilt—finally rendered it harmless by pushing it over on its side, where it was left wallowing impotently like an overturned turtle.

Primroses.
I was at the railroad station in London, England, when the ambulance train came, says a correspondent, and as the stretchers were gently lifted out I jittered up a damp little bunch of primroses and wood anemones which had fallen at my feet.

A pair of quick eyes, slightly dimmed with pain, noticed. "They're mine, miss, if you don't mind—must have fallen off of me. I haven't arms no use at present, as you see."

I made the posy quite safe this time, near enough to his face for the fresh smell of the moss which still clung about the stalks to reach him. I wish that whoever had gathered and tied up all these little posies in some peaceful woodland spot, and sent them with such care to Waterloo labeled, "For the Wounded," could have been standing by my side that night.

Malaria Attacks Army.
The Annales de Medicine says, on the authority of Delille and his co-workers, "that the epidemic of malaria that has affected the armies operating in Macedonia forms, if not the most important, at least one of the most important, epidemics known in history. Not since the armies of Xerxes were decimated by malaria in that same region has there been a situation comparable to that of these modern forces in the Macedonian valleys and marshes. The extreme gravity of the infection, the early and large proportion of pernicious cases, the apparent failure of preventive doses of quinine, the prevalence of malignant tertian malaria and the frequency of hemoglobinuria were special features."

Little Bread Winners.
Before the war 230,000 British schoolchildren under fourteen years of age were working for wages out of school; since the war the number has largely increased. Here are a few instances: A boy of ten working forty-seven and three-quarter hours a week in addition to attending school; a boy of eleven years working two and a half hours before school, two and a half hours after school, and thirteen hours on Saturday; a boy of twelve working one hour before school, one hour at midday, four hours after school, and thirteen hours on Saturday.

Sovereigns Exchange Compliments.
As a further tribute to the amicable relations existing between the royal families of England and Japan, recently expressed by an exchange of titles of the supreme and congenial between the emperor of Japan and the king of England, the British court is about to dispatch a representative to Tokyo to greet the peace and welfare of the Japanese imperial family and to formally express the national desire for the peace of the world at the conclusion of the war. To return his compliments, the emperor will send to London His Highness Fushimi-no-miya, Prince Torihito.—East and West News.

Saving Ice.
In response to a request by the food administration that the use of artificial ice be reduced to a minimum, a large hotel of New York city has posted a notice in each room asking that guests use ice sparingly. The result has been a reduction in the calls for ice water. Ammonia is used in large quantities in making artificial ice and, because of the demand for this important chemical in the manufacture of explosives, a shortage has been created.

Appropriate.
Mr. Bacon—Are you through with that bonnet you wore last winter, dear?

Mrs. Bacon—Why, yes, "May I have it?"

"I suppose so. But what do you want it for?"

"I want to use it on the scare-crow I'm going to put out in the cornfield."

Here's a Hard One.
We have been asked so many amazing questions by readers that it is a little difficult to pick out the craziest. One, however, which remains indelibly on our memory was: "Whether a chimera buzzing in a vacuum would be able to develop second intentions?" What do you think about it?

Forget It.
The time wasted in complaining because the job is hard would often be more than sufficient to put that job on the list of "has-beens."

FRECKLES

Now Is the Time to Get Rid of These Ugly Spots

There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as Othine—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these loathsome spots. Simply get an ounce of Othine—double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little "bright and morning and ho, ho!" soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion. Be sure to ask for the double strength Othine, as this will remove freckles in half the time it takes to remove freckles.—Adv.

MR. JONES HAD RIGHT IDEA

Some Statesmen and Many Soldiers Fully Agree With the Gentleman. From Atlanta.

George Washington Jones, late of Atlanta, was making his first trip toward an army supply wagon—when, from the side of the road, a camouflaged American battery broke forth thunderously, sending a few 300-pound tokens over the line to Fritz. The ground trembled from the salvo, but it was more than George as he jumped from his high seat to the road.

The American artillery officer in charge of the battery crossed over to the road.

"Scared?" he demanded.

"Well," said George, "Ah was slightly agitated at first. Ah snuffling was. But keep bright on. Dat's the only way to win dis war—fah dem guns."

Heartless Papa.

"What did papa say?" asked the bright spot of his life, breathlessly, as her hero came limping out of papa's studio after an interview.

"He didn't say much," returned her bright spot, mournfully. "But I wish I were as unfeeling as he is."

Soothe Itching Scapula.
On retiring gently rub spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment. Next morning shampoo with Cuticura Soap and hot water. For free samples address: "Cuticura, Dept. X, Boston." At druggists and by mail, Soap 25, Ointment 25 and 50.—Adv.

Detective Work.
"It took some pretty smart Sherlock" to snoop out the fellows that violated the prohibition law in Chinatown, exclaimed Broncho Bob.

"You must have found some sort of a clue."

"Mighty little. But it was enough. Most every fellow in the town has bought an automobile and we started right in an 'narrowed suspicion' down to the few that didn't have no tires to be cut up when empty liquor bottles was smashed in the road."

Silence is often the price of domestic felicity.

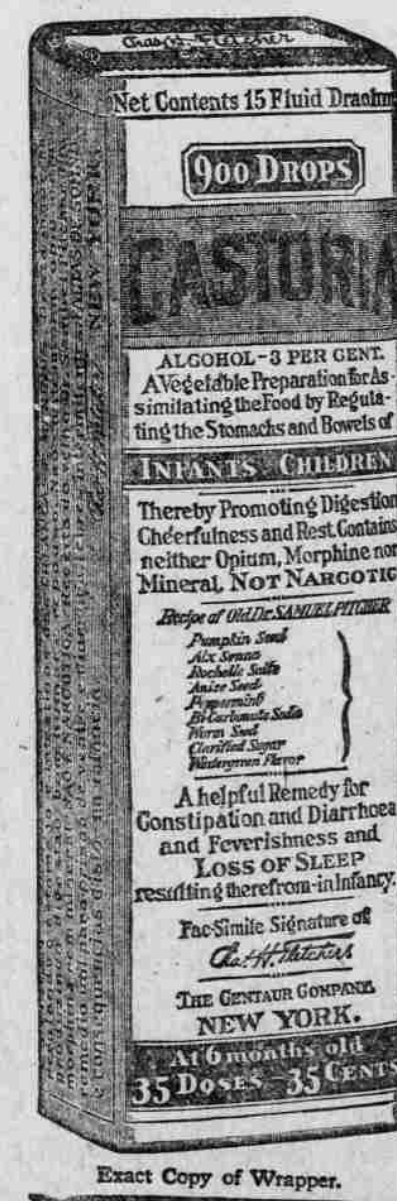
Life is short, yet most men outlive their good intentions.

A Great Responsibility.

THE responsibility attached to the preparing of a remedy for infants and children is undoubtedly greater than that imposed upon the manufacturer of remedies for adults whose system is sufficiently strong to counteract, for a time at least, any injurious drug. It is well to observe that Castoria is prepared today, as it has been for the past 40 years, under the personal supervision of Mr. Chas. H. Fletcher.

What have makers of imitations and substitutes at stake? What are their responsibilities? To whom are they answerable? They spring up today, scatter their nefarious wares broadcast, and disappear tomorrow.

Could each mother see the painstaking care with which the prescription for Fletcher's Castoria is prepared: could they read the innumerable testimonials from grateful mothers, they would never listen to the subtle pleadings and false arguments of those who would offer an imitation of, or substitute for the tried and true Fletcher's Castoria.



Children Cry For Fletcher's CASTORIA

Extracts from Letters by Grateful Parents to Chas. H. Fletcher.

Q. J. English, of Springfield, Mass., says: "It was your Castoria that saved my child."

Mrs. Mary McGinnis, of St. Louis, Mo., says: "We have given our baby your Castoria ever since she was born, and we recommend it to all mothers."

N. E. Calmes, of Marion, Ky., says: "You have the best medicine in the world, as I have given your Castoria to my babies from first to last."

Mrs. Albert Ugusky, of Lawrenceburg, Ind., says: "As I have had your Castoria in use for nearly three years, I am pleased to say it is just as represented. My children are both well and happy—thanks to Castoria."

R. P. Stockton, of New Orleans, La., says: "We began giving your Castoria to our baby when he was eight days old and have kept it up ever since, never having had to give any other medicine."

Mrs. Dolph Hornbuckle, of Colorado Springs, Colo., says: "We commenced giving your Castoria to our baby when she was four weeks old. She is now seven months and weighs 24 pounds. Every one says: 'What a healthy looking baby.' We give Castoria credit for it."

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS BEARS the Signature of
Chas. H. Fletcher
THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY

Are the Packers Profiteers?

Plain Facts About the Meat Business

The Federal Trade Commission in its recent report on war profits, stated that the five large meat packers have been profiteering and that they have a monopoly of the market.

These conclusions, if fair and just, are matters of serious concern not only to those engaged in the meat packing business but to every other citizen of our country.

The figures given on profits are misleading and the statement that the packers have a monopoly is unsupported by the facts.

The packers mentioned in the report stand ready to prove their profits reasonable and necessary.

The meat business is one of the largest American industries. Any citizen who would familiarize himself with its details must be prepared for large totals.

The report states that the aggregate profits of four large packers were \$140,000,000 for the three war years.

This sum is compared with \$19,000,000 as the average annual profit for the three years before the war, making it appear that the war profit was \$121,000,000 greater than the pre-war profit.

This compares a three-year profit with a one-year profit—a manifestly unfair method of comparison. It is not only misleading, but the Federal Trade Commission apparently has made a mistake in the figures themselves.

The aggregate three-year profits of \$140,000,000 was earned on sales of over four and a half billion dollars. It means about three cents on each dollar of sales—or a mere fraction of a cent per pound of product.

Packers' profits are a negligible factor in prices of live stock and meats. No other large business is conducted upon such small margins of profit.

Furthermore—and this is very important—only a small portion of this profit has been paid in dividends. The balance has been put back into the businesses. It had to be, as you realize when you consider the problems the packers have had to solve—and solve quickly—during these war years.

To conduct this business in war times, with higher costs and the necessity of paying two or three times the former prices for live stock, has required the use of two or three times the ordinary amount of working capital. The addi-

tional profit makes only a fair return on this, and as has been stated, the larger portion of the profits earned has been used to finance huge stocks of goods and to provide additions and improvements made necessary by the enormous demands of our army and navy and the allies.

If you are a business man you will appreciate the significance of these facts. If you are unacquainted with business, talk this matter over with some business acquaintance—with your banker, say—and ask him to compare profits of the packing industry with those of any other large industry at the present time.

No evidence is offered by the Federal Trade Commission in support of the statement that the large packers have a monopoly. The Commission's own report shows the large number and importance of other packers.

The packers mentioned in the statement stand ready to prove to any fair-minded person that they are in keen competition with each other, and that they have no power to manipulate prices.

If this were not true they would not dare to make this positive statement.

Furthermore, government figures show that the five large packers mentioned in the report account for only about one-third of the meat business of the country.

They wish it were possible to interest you in the details of their business. Of how, for instance, they can sell dressed beef for less than the cost of the live animal, owing to utilization of by-products, and of the wonderful story of the methods of distribution throughout this broad land, as well as in other countries.

The five packers mentioned feel justified in co-operating with each other to the extent of together presenting this public statement.

They have been able to do a big job for your government in its time of need; they have met all war time demands promptly and completely and they are willing to trust their case to the fairness of the American people with the facts before them.

**Armour & Company
Cudahy Packing Co.
Morris & Company
Swift & Company
Wilson & Company**